

Explanatory Memorandum to the M4 Motorway (Junction 41, Westbound Exit Slip Road, Sunnycroft Roundabout, Baglan, Neath Port Talbot) (50MPH Speed Limit) Regulations 2010

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Transport, Housing and Regeneration and is laid before the National Assembly for Wales in conjunction with the above subordinate legislation and in accordance with Standing Order 24.1.

Minister's Declaration

In my view, this Explanatory Memorandum gives a fair and reasonable view of the expected impact of The M4 Motorway (Junction 41, Westbound Exit Slip Road, Sunnycroft Roundabout, Baglan, Neath Port Talbot) (50MPH Speed Limit) Regulations 2010.

Ieuan Wyn Jones
Minister for the Economy and Transport

Date: 25 October 2010

1. Description

The Regulations will reduce on safety grounds the maximum speed limit on the westbound exit slip road from Junction 41 of the M4 Motorway as it approaches the circulatory carriageway of Sunnycroft Roundabout at Baglan, Neath Port Talbot from 70mph to 50mph.

2. Matters of special interest to the Constitutional Affairs Committee

None

3. Legislative Background

The power enabling this instrument to be made is Section 17(2) and (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA). This gives the Welsh Ministers the power to make Regulations with respect to the use of special roads (including motorways). This power has been transferred to the Welsh Ministers by virtue of paragraph 30 of Schedule 11 to the Government of Wales Act 2006.

This instrument follows the negative procedure.

4. Purpose and intended effect of the legislation

The speed limit on the westbound exit slip road at this junction is currently 70mph which allows traffic to approach the circulatory carriageway of Sunnycroft Roundabout at high speeds. Following the installation of permanent traffic signal controlled gyratory at the roundabout, this is unsatisfactory on safety grounds and needs to be addressed. The Regulations will reduce the speed limit on the slip road as it approaches the circulatory carriageway from 70mph to 50mph, slowing speed and thus improving safety at this junction.

If the legislation were not made the speed limit along the whole length of the slip road would remain at 70mph. This means that traffic approaching the roundabout and the gyratory from the slip road would be travelling at a speed in excess of that which is desirable and safe.

5. Implementation

If this legislation were to be annulled safety at Junction 41 of the M4 would be compromised. This Instrument has a coming into force date of 18 November 2010.

6. Consultation

- Consultation on the SI was issued on 30 June 2010.
- The list of consultees is attached at Annex A.

- The consultation was considered necessary to obtain the views of the emergency services, the relevant motoring organisations, the haulage organisations and the local authority on the proposed speed reduction.
- The consultation period was 6 weeks. No responses were received.

7. Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)

A Regulatory impact Assessment is not considered necessary in this instance as the legislation is made in the exercise of statutory powers and will simply reduce for highway safety purposes the current speed limit on this slip road, which should not have any impact on local businesses, charities or voluntary bodies.

The legislation has no impact on statutory partners or statutory duties as set out in sections 73-79 of the Government of Wales Act 2006.